Serving Food to Passengers in Trains

1896. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has recently ruled that food must be served to passengers travelling in trains running late; and

(b) if so, what specific steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It has been recommended by the Commission that the Railway authorities should make efforts to help passengers by supplying some food in the event of late running of trains.

(b) Steps taken/proposed to be taken include monitoring of late running by Commercial Officers, sending advance intimation to base kitchen, static units en-route, preparation of certain items in the pantry car, providing out of course stoppages at stations having adequate catering facilities, etc.

Introducing Special Train to clear the Summer Rush

1897. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern Railway have decided to introduce special trains so as to clear the summer rush of passengers;

(b) if so, the additional trains introduced/being introduced for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to provide all amenities for the passengers on these special trains and also on platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 425 trains.

(c) Instructions exist for provision of amenities as per norms on these trains. Arrangements at the stations are also strengthened to deal with the extra rush.

Second Class Reservations for Handicapped Persons

1898. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reserve one second class compartment or some berths for handicapped persons on important trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While Railways would like to help the handicapped persons, but considering the demand outstripping the availability of reserved accommodation and similar requests from other categories of passengers, it has not been found feasible to earmark separate accommodation for them.

Complimentary card passes of Railways

1899. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Railways to issue complimentary card passes for travelling by 1st class and AC sleepers to eminent persons;

(b) what is the number of such passes issued as on the 30th April, 1992; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Complimentary Card Passes are issued to eminent persons engaged in work of National importance, for which they are required to undertake frequent journeys, based on merits of each case, with the personal approval of the competent authority.

(b) The number of Complimentary Card Passes valid as on 30-4-1992 was 92.

(c) Since Complimentary Card Passes are granted free, the value of such passes has neither been computed nor feasible of computation realistically.

Acquisition of Railway land at Ghat-Kopar in Bombay

1900. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay to acquire the Railway land to widen the Jawahar Road at Ghatkopar (East) in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shadra-Saharanpur double line

1901. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make GZB-SRE route double line, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make the line double on the Shahdra-Saharanpur Section; and

(c) whether there is any proposal also to electrify it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Ghaziabad-Muradnagar and Saharanpur-Tapri sections have already double line track. There is presently no proposal for doubling between Muradnagar and Tapri.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Construction of over-bridges at Vikhroli in Bombay

1902. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Foot Over-Bridge and a Road Over-Bridge at Vikhroli in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of a Road Over-Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 14 at Bombay end of Vikhroli station has been received from the Bombay Municipal Corporation. There is no proposal for construction of a foot over-bridge at Vikhroli at present.

(c) Construction of Road Over-Bridge will take four to five years after sanction of work.

Dhanbad-Patherdih passenger train

1903. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to run Dhanbad-Patherdih Passenger train upto Bhojudih and then upto Jamshadpur *via* Adra and Purulia by making necessary modifications in Patherdih-Bhojudih section of the